

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2004
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on January 28 at 10:30 a.m. at Fresno City Hall, City Council Chambers, Fresno, CA.

Members Present: Joseph E. Petrillo, Chairperson
 Fran Florez, Vice Chairperson
 Marc Adelman
 Rod Diridon, Sr.
 Lynn Schenk
 T.J. Stapleton

Members Absent: Donna Andrews
 Dr. Ernest A. Bates
 Bob Giroux

Opening Comments

Chairperson Petrillo acknowledged the presence of various elected officials and their representatives in the audience including Mary Alice representing Senator Charles Poochigian, Minnie Santillan representing Assemblymember Sara Reyes, Susan Good representing Senator Dean Florez.

Approval of Minutes for September 23, 2003 Meeting

Chairperson Petrillo presented the minutes for approval. Member Stapleton moved to approve the September 23, 2003 meeting minutes. Member Adelman seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairperson Petrillo presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Stapleton moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation. Vice Chairperson Florez seconded the motion, which carried, 6-0.

Members Reports

Chairperson Petrillo reported that the draft EIR/EIS was released yesterday, January 27th. Media receptions were held in San Francisco and Los Angeles. There was also a media reception this morning at Fresno City Hall prior to the Board Meeting.

Public Comment

John Gelff, Council Member and former Mayor of San Juan Capistrano

Council Member Gelff thanked the Authority for their hard work and the sensitivity used in dealing with the City of San Juan Capistrano.

Gloria Korteze-Keene, Merced County Supervisor

Supervisor Keene thanked the Authority for meeting in a location in close proximity to Merced. She invited the Authority to consider Castle Air Force Base as a proposed high-speed rail station location.

Chairperson Petrillo acknowledged Margaret Arechiga, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer.

Roger Montaro, Deputy Mayor, City of Fresno

Deputy Mayor Montaro welcomed the Authority to Fresno. He expressed support of a high-speed rail station location and maintenance center in Fresno. In addition, the City of Fresno pledges 100% support in making high-speed rail a reality in California.

Chairperson Petrillo reported that the Authority has two new Board Members, Marc Adelman of San Diego and Lynn Schenk of San Diego. Member Schenk previously served as a U.S. Congresswoman, part of the Davis Administration, and as former Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

Judy Case, Fresno County Supervisor

Supervisor Case welcomed the Authority to Fresno. She expressed support for high-speed rail and a downtown Fresno station location.

Chairperson Petrillo announced that the guided tour mentioned at the bottom of the agenda will be an informal tour and any interested parties may approach Executive Director Morshed or any of the Authority staff to find out the details of this informal guided tour.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported that the Authority originally planned to charter a bus to transport Board Members and other interested parties on a tour of the proposed alignment. However, as there are only two or three Board Members that may be participating, the Authority did not charter a bus, but will give the Board Members an informal tour in a private car.

Executive Director Morshed welcomed the two new Board Members, Marc Adelman and Lynn Schenk. Lynn Schenk is a long time supporter of high-speed rail. Executive Director Morshed expressed special thanks to two strong, long-time advocates of high-speed rail, Senator Jim Costa and Lynn Schenk, who while she was Chief of Staff to Governor Davis provided support within that administration.

Executive Director Morshed acknowledged Joe Levy, Chairman of Gotchalks Department Store as being in the audience. Mr. Levy supports public investment in infrastructure. Executive Director Morshed thanked Mr. Levy for his support of high-speed rail.

Executive Director Morshed reported that since the last Board Meeting, Authority staff and Consultants have been working on releasing the Draft EIR/EIS, which will be reported on later during the meeting.

Executive Director reported on the budget. Last fall, in addition to operating costs the Authority requested funding for the following tasks:

- \$300,000 for potential litigation resulting from the release of the Draft EIR/EIS
- \$200,000 for outreach
- \$300,000 for federal liaison
- \$1.5 million for shared-use study
- \$1.7 million for ridership and revenue study

Due to the delay in the release of the Draft EIR/EIS, the Authority had to spend more money than anticipated. Therefore, the Authority will have to request additional funds in the May revise.

The Governor is proposing that the bond measure be removed from the November 2004 ballot. Therefore, the Legislature is discussing possible postponement of the bond measure.

Presentation of the Draft Program EIR/EIS

Executive Director Morshed presented a summary of findings from the draft program EIR/EIS document. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Presentation of design options in the Draft Program EIR/EIS

Deputy Director Dan Leavitt presented an overview of the design options in the Bay Area – Merced region. Deputy Director Carrie Pourvahidi presented an overview of the design options in the Sacramento – Bakersfield region and the Bakersfield – Los Angeles region. Deputy Director Leavitt presented an overview of the design options in the Los Angeles – San Diego via the Inland Empire and Los Angeles – Orange County - San Diego region. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

Phil Cox, Vice Mayor of the City of Visalia

Vice Mayor Cox expressed support for high-speed rail, citing environmental benefits. Vice Mayor Cox also expressed support for utilizing the existing Union Pacific Alignment. Vice Mayor Cox used overhead transparencies to illustrate possible high-speed rail station locations and alignments.

Marsh Pittman, Transportation Involves Everyone

Mr. Pittman submitted a copy of a current Amtrak train schedule to the Board and promoted use of Amtrak.

Discussion of public review period of the Draft Program EIR/EIS and Selection of dates and locations for the Draft Program EIR/EIS public hearings

Executive Director Morshed reported that the draft EIR/EIS document will be in the Federal Register by mid-February and at that time the public comment period will begin. Therefore, formal comments on the draft program EIR/EIS will be taken after it is registered. The Authority will hold five draft program EIR/EIS public hearings throughout California. Executive Director Morshed presented a proposed public hearing schedule to the Board for approval. Member Schenk requested the San Diego and San Francisco public hearing dates be switched. Executive Director Morshed requested approval of the revised public hearing dates. Member Adelman moved to approve the list of public hearing dates, as revised. Member Schenk seconded the motion, which carried, 6-0.

Public Comment

Larry Miller, San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee/Fresno County

Mr. Miller recommended Board Members see the proposed alignment by car. He also requested the Authority be more open in soliciting public comment in the San Joaquin Valley.

Member Schenk exited the meeting.

John Wilkinson, Sierra Club, Loma Pieta Chapter

Mr. Wilkinson submitted a written, prepared statement to the Authority, requesting removal of the proposed Diablo Direct routes from consideration, including more than 1,000 cards supporting the elimination of the proposed Diablo Direct routes.

Patrick Moore, Sierra Club

Mr. Moore expressed support of the study of the Altamont Pass.

Tony Martinez, Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Martinez encouraged the Authority to reach out to the Hispanic community.

Lee Bocie, Merced Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Bocie commended the Authority along with Executive Director Morshed and Deputy Director Pourvahidi. The proposed high-speed rail system will benefit the vast majority of people. Within one year Merced County has met with the Authority staff at least four times and Vice Chairperson Florez also delivered a presentation.

Selection of Monthly Meeting Dates and Locations

Executive Director Morshed presented a list of monthly meeting dates and locations to the Board for approval. Member Adelman moved to approve the list of monthly meeting dates and locations, as revised. Member Stapleton seconded the motion, which carried, 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.